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PRESTIGIOUS PHALKE AWARD CONFERRED ON WAHEEDA REHMAN

President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday honoured yesteryear screen icon Waheeda Rehman with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award



BEST ACTOR, ACTRESSES FELICITATED TOO

Allu Arjun won the best actor award for the Telugu film, *Pushpa: The Rise*. Alia Bhatt and Kirti Sanon shared the best actress award for Hindi films *Gangubai Kathawadi* and *Mimi*, respectively. This is the first National Award for all three actors. The auditorium erupted with applause as a clip of *Pushpa: The Rise* played when Allu Arjun walked to stage

LOUDEST CHEERS FOR RRR AND PUSHPA

"Films are the most effective medium to spread awareness and sensitivity. Meaningful films depict the achievements as well as the problems of the society and the country," Murmu said in her speech
Loudest cheers were reserved for the winners of *RRR* and *Pushpa: The Rise* in different categories

280

FEATURE FILMS IN 28 LANGUAGES RECEIVED AS ENTRIES BY THE JURY



DR DEVE GOWDA

Governor Thaanwarthand Gehlot confers an honorary doctorate on former PM HD Deve Gowda during the 58th Annual Convocation of Bangalore University at Jnana Jyothi Auditorium in Bengaluru on Tuesday | **NAGARAJ GARGAL** | P6

PM Modi wants Space Station, Indian on Moon

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

INDIA on Tuesday took two aims at the space: one to set up a space station by 2035 and the second to send a man to the Moon by 2040.

"India's strides in the space sector over the past few years have been commendable and we are building on them for more successes," Prime Minister Narendra Modi posted on X.

The PM's directions came during a briefing by ISRO Chairman S Somanath on the progress of the Gaganyaan mission, whose first demonstration flight is

scheduled for October 21. The Department of Space will develop a roadmap for Moon exploration. This will encompass a series of Chandrayaan missions, the development of a next generation launch vehicle, construction of a new launch pad, setting up human-centric laboratories and associated technologies.

India is trying to build up on its recent success in its space programmes such as Chandrayaan 3, following which it has embarked on a solar mission. The PM asked scientists to work towards interplanetary missions that would include a Venus Orbiter Mission and Mars Lander.

EXPRESS READ

14 killed in blasts at two firecracker units in TN

VIRUDHUNAGAR (TN): At least 14 persons were killed and two injured in two separate fire accidents at fireworks units in Rangapalayam and Kichanayakanpatti village in Virudhunagar district of Tamil Nadu on Tuesday, police said. Police, fire and rescue personnel, and the public put up joint efforts in extinguishing the flames and trying to rescue the victims. **P5**

BURGLARY CASE

Man challenges 15 days' jail term, gets 7 yrs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Karwar

SIRSI'S District and JMFC Court on Monday sentenced a man, who had appealed against the lower court order of 15 days' imprisonment for burglary, to seven years' imprisonment.

Asgar Ali Khasim Saab was arrested for burglary at Haldahalli in Sirsi taluk in 2017. The First Additional Civil Judge and Second JMFC Court, which heard the case, sentenced him to 15 days' imprisonment and ordered him to pay a fine of Rs 500 in 2021.

However, Khasim Saab challenged this order before the District and JMFC Court. Judge Kiran Kini sentenced Khasim Saab to seven years' imprisonment and ordered him to pay a fine of Rs 1,000.

500 feared dead as hospital hit; Biden-Bibi meet today



A girl being rescued from a bombed-out building at Rafah on Tuesday | **AFP**

HAMAS LEADER KILLED

On Tuesday, Hamas said its commander Ayman Nofal was killed in an Israeli strike. With this, the number of top commanders eliminated by Israel since October 7 has risen to six

AD-HOC BONUS FOR CENTRAL GOVT STAFF OKAYED

Ad-hoc bonus has been approved for Group C and non-gazetted Group B rank Central govt officials, including paramilitary forces and armed forces

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

AS the Israel-Hamas conflict entered the 11th day, bombs continued to fall all over the Gaza Strip, including the southern areas where Israel had advised civilians to go. Gaza health ministry officials said Israeli airstrikes hit the al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza City, killing at least 500 people. Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas has declared three days of mourning following the bombing of the hospital, Palestinian news agency WAFA reported. A UN-run school was also hit, killing six persons.

While Israel is set to start the ground assault on Gaza, world leaders are travelling to Tel Aviv in a show of solidarity. On Tuesday, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz made an impromptu trip to Israel and met Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Romanian PM Marcel Ciolacu also met Netanyahu on Tuesday.

On Wednesday, US President Joe Biden will reach Tel Aviv. He will then travel to Jordan. The Jerusalem Post reported that French President Macron is also set to visit Israel soon.

Israeli strikes have so far killed over 3,000 Palestinians in Gaza. Over 1,200 people are believed to be buried under the rubble. The October 7 attack by Hamas on Israel killed around 1,400 people, while 200 were taken hostage. **P12**

LOCAL LANGUAGE PUSH

Everyone living in K'taka must speak Kannada: CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday said people residing in Karnataka should learn Kannada.

In states such as Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh, it is impossible to live without knowing the local language. Whereas in Karnataka, one can live without knowing the local language, the CM said.

Though Kannada is the administrative language of the state, it is not being followed strictly, he said after launching the logo of "Karnataka Sambhrama - 50" at a function organised here by the Department of Kannada and Culture to mark the 50th year of renaming Mysore State as Karnataka.

Siddaramaiah pointed out that the craze for English is the reason for the neglect of Kannada. "Many ministers and

officers in the state write notes in English. English can be used while writing to the Union government and other states, but within Karnataka, Kannada should be given prominence in administration," the chief minister said.

Non-Kannadigas, who have made Karnataka their home, should learn to speak Kannada. "You can live in Karnataka even if you don't speak Kannada. That is the difference between our state and other states," Siddaramaiah said. **P5**

YE-LONG GALA

The state completes 50 years of its renaming as Karnataka on Nov 1, 2023. "We announced in the budget to celebrate Karnataka Sambhrama - 50 from November 1, 2023 to November 1, 2024," the CM said.



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Thumbs down to same-sex marriage

3:2 SC verdict denies adoption rights to queer couples; accepts proposal on panel to look into benefits for them

JAISON WILSON @ New Delhi

GAY rights activists on Tuesday suffered a huge blow as the Supreme Court refused to strike down the Special Marriage Act (SMA) to legalise same-sex marriage, saying it is for the legislature to decide.

A 3:2 majority judgment of the bench led by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud also refused to provide the right of adoption to queer couples.

While the CJI and Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul found a Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) circular violative of Article 15, three others — Justices S Ravindra Bhat, Hima Kohli and P S Narasimha did not concur. The office memorandum stipulated that a single prospective adoptive parent in a live-in relationship will be ineligible to adopt a child.

The CJI observed that queerness is a natural phenomenon and is not urban or elite.

The court, however, affirmed the transgender persons in heterosexual relationships and intersex persons — who identify as either male or female — have the right to marry under the existing law, including personal laws on marriage.

The court said state legislatures are free to enact laws recognising and regulating same-sex marriage in the absence of any Central law.

WHO STANDS WHERE

JUSTICES S RAVINDRA BHAT & HIMA KOHLI

- Say there is no unqualified right to marriage except that which is recognised by statute including space left by custom
- Disagree with CJI on adoption. Say CARA should consider reality of families where single individuals adopt and then live in a non-matrimonial relationship

JUSTICE SANJAY KISHAN KAUL

- Concur with the CJI. Says non-heterosexual unions and heterosexual unions/marriages ought to be considered as two sides of same coin
- Legal recognition of non-heterosexual unions, he adds, represents a step forward towards marriage equality

CHIEF JUSTICE D Y CHANDRACHUD

- Under Articles 245 and 246 of the Constitution read with Entry 5 of List III to the Seventh Schedule, it lies within the domain of Parliament and the state legislatures to enact laws recognising and regulating queer marriage
- Amend law to enable queer couples to adopt children

JUSTICE P S NARASIMHA

- Concur with Bhat. Says marriage is a social institution, and that in our country, it is conditioned by culture, religion, customs and usages
- Impact of legislative framework on benefits to LGBTQ people requires a deliberative, consultative exercise. It's the Legislature and the Executive's job

Justice S Ravindra Bhat in a joint verdict with Justice Hima Kohli authored by him, said: "The State may choose from a number of policy outcomes; they may make all marriage and family related laws gender

neutral, or they may create a separate SMA-like statute in gender neutral terms to give the queer community an avenue for marriage, they may pass an Act creating civil unions, or a domestic partnership legislation, among many other alternatives."

There is no universal concep-

tion of the institution of marriage, nor is it static, the CJI observed. Marriage attained significance as a legal institution largely because of regulation by the state, he added.

Justice Narasimha, who concurred with Justice Bhat, said marriage is a social institution, adding in India it is condi-

tioned by culture, religion, customs and usages. It is a sacrament in some communities, a contract in some other.

"In India, the multiverse of marriage as a social institution, is not legally regulated by a singular gravitational field. Until the colonial exercise of codification of regulations governing marriage and family commenced, the rules governing marriage and family, were largely customary, often rooted in religious practice," he said.

The bench agreed with the government's assurance to constitute a committee chaired by the Cabinet Secretary to define the scope of the entitlements of queer couples. The committee would comprise experts with domain knowledge and experience in dealing with the social, psychological, and emotional needs of persons belonging to the queer community as well as members of the queer community.

It would also examine how to enable partners in a queer relationship to be treated as part of the same family for the purposes of a ration card. Besides, the question on providing the facility of a joint bank account with the option to name the partner as a nominee, in case of death, would also be looked into.

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